(b) what are the main contents of studies; and

(c) how many Southern Universities have been selected for introduction of these courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) It has been decided, in principles, by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to introduce courses in Water Management/Water Harvesting in the Universities. The model syllabus, guidelines and the modalities etc. for introduction of these courses shall be finalised in due course of time by the Commission with the help of Expert Committees. After finalization of the guidelines and model syllabus by the Commission, the UGC will invite proposals from all the Universities and Technical Institutes.

Indian Education Fund

1404. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an India Education Fund, (Bharat Shiksha Kosh), which would regulate and co-ordinate efforts made by NRIs, to set up technical institutions in the country;

(b) whether this fund would have a seed money of Rs. One crore and receive contributions from private associations and NRIs;

(c) whether it would be run by an autonomous body to channelise the money, for improving the technical education in India;

(d) if so, whether Government have approved this proposal; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and the fund set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (e) Though the Government has decided to set up Bharat Shiksha Kosh to enlist the support of all concerned and mobilise extra budgetary support for educational development, it has not been constituted so far. The Central Government propose to make an one time contribution of Rupees one crore to the Kosh. Other modalities are being worked out.